KODIAK MANAGEMENT AREA

COMMERCIAL FOOD/BAIT HERRING FISHERY HARVEST STRATEGY 1996/97

By

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INTRODUCTION

The Kodiak Management Area (KMA) food/bait herring fishery has a long history, dating back to 1912. Early harvests were primarily utilized for food and reduction products and harvests far surpassed current levels. Since, the early 1960's the harvest has been utilized primarily as bait for the crab and longline fisheries.

Food/bait herring fisheries occurring in the Shelikof Strait portion of the KMA target both Kodiak and Kamishak spawning stocks (Figure 1). Since the sac roe herring fisheries in the Kodiak and Cook Inlet areas are closed-to-entry fisheries, they are treated as primary fisheries. Fisheries are managed to provide for the majority of the harvest on the affected stocks to occur during the Kodiak and Kamishak sac roe season. The food/bait fishery on these stocks are subsequently treated as secondary fisheries. The associated harvest levels are directly related to the results of the sac roe fisheries of these stocks.

This harvest strategy will summarize regulations which are in affect and how this fishery will be managed.

HARVEST STRATEGIES

During the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting held in Anchorage in November 1992 and in Kodiak in January 1993, new harvest strategies were adopted which direct the management of the KMA food/bait herring fishery. This is the fourth year this fishery will be managed under these harvest strategies. The two management plans which guide the KMA food/bait herring fishery are 5AAC 27.365, Kodiak Area Harvest Strategies, and 5AAC 27.465, the Kamishak Bay District Herring Management Plan.

The Kodiak plan allocates a harvest of herring equal to ten percent (10%) of the previous season's KMA sac roe harvest, by individual management section, to the KMA food/bait fishery. The Kamishak plan also allocates a harvest of herring to the Kodiak food/bait fishery, because it is known that Kamishak stocks overwinter in the KMA during the fishery, and have been traditionally taken in this fishery. The allocation allows for a maximum of two percent (2%) of the projected Kamishak biomass. The percent of the Kamishak biomass allocated to the KMA food/bait fishery depends on the annual estimated spawning biomass.

When both plans are combined, the total harvest within the Shelikof Strait Districts (the North Afognak, West Afognak, Uganik, Uyak, North Mainland, and Mid Mainland food/bait Districts) can not exceed the combined Kamishak allocation plus the food/bait guideline harvest levels (GHL) for the individual KMA stocks in the West Afognak, Uganik, and Uyak Districts. For the remainder of the KMA individual Section GHL's are set, based upon ten percent (10%) of the previous season's sac roe harvest.

For the 1996-97 season the Kamishak allocation is 200 tons, and the GHL for the West Afognak and Uganik Districts combined is 190 tons (the North Afognak and Uyak Districts will remain closed). Therefore when 390 tons is taken in the Shelikof Strait Districts (the North Afognak, West Afognak, Uganik, Uyak, North Mainland, and Mid Mainland food/bait Districts), these areas will close to further food/bait herring fishing. Individual Sections within the Shelikof area may close earlier, dependent on inseason evaluation of the actual fishery and stock abundance. For the remainder of the KMA the guideline harvest totals 143 tons. The Uyak, South Afognak, and Inner Marmot Districts will also remain closed.

KAMISHAK HERRING STOCKS

The 1995-96 Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations, Cook Inlet Area Section, lists the Kamishak Bay District Herring Management Plan (5AAC 27.465.) which outlines criteria for the management of the Kamishak Bay sac roe herring fishery and Shelikof Strait food/bait fishery as follows:

5 AAC 27.465 Kamishak Bay District Herring Management Plan.

- a) The purpose of the Kamishak Bay District herring management plan is to describe the management strategies used to set the guideline harvest levels for the Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery, and for that portion of the Kamishak Bay stock allocated to the food and bait fishery conducted in the North Afognak Island, West Afognak Island, Uganik, North Mainland, and Mid-Mainland food and bait management units of the Kodiak management area, known as the Shelikof Strait food and bait fishery, as described in (5 AAC 27.535(c)), (Figure 2).
- **b)** The management year for the Kamishak Bay herring stock is July 1 through June 30.
- c) The allocation of the allowable harvest of the Kamishak Bay herring stock is 90 percent to the Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery, and 10 percent to the Shelikof Strait food and bait fishery.
- d) The guideline harvest level for the fall Shelikof Strait food and bait fishery and the following spring Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery will be based on the projected biomass as determined by the most recent aerial surveys, age class composition, historical mortality, and recruitment trends.
- e) The maximum exploitation rate for the Kamishak Bay herring stock is 20 percent of the spawning biomass, and will be determined as follows:
 - 1) if the spawning biomass is 30,000 short tons or more, the maximum exploitation rate is 20 percent, with 18 percent allocated to the Kamishak sac roe fishery and 2 percent allocated to the Shelikof Strait food and bait fishery;
 - 2) if the spawning biomass is 20,000 short tons or more, but less than 30,000 short tons, the maximum exploitation rate is 15 percent, with 13.5 percent allocated to the Kamishak sac roe fishery and 1.5 percent allocated to the Shelikof Strait food and bait fishery;

- 3) if the spawning biomass is 8,000 short tons or more, but less than 20,000 short tons, the allowable exploitation rate is 10 percent, with 9 percent allocated to the Kamishak sac roe fishery and 1 percent allocated to the Shelikof Strait food and bait fishery;
- 4) if the spawning biomass is less than 8,000 short tons, the Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery and the Shelikof food and bait fishery north of the latitude of Miner's Point will be closed, (Figure 3).
- f) The management strategy for the Kamishak sac roe fishery is to target the fishery on older age classes, and to limit exploitation rates on younger age class herring (age five and younger) to 10 percent or less.
- g) The allocation of Kamishak Bay herring stocks to the Shelikof Strait food and bait fishery will be based on the spawning biomass of age five and older herring and not on the biomass of juveniles. The quantity of herring stocks aged four years and younger caught in the Shelikof Strait food and bait fishery will be adjusted to approximate the biomass of a similar number of age five herring.

KODIAK FOOD/BAIT HARVEST STRATEGY

The specific management plan which guides the KMA food/bait fishery is described in the Kodiak Area 1995-96 Commercial Herring Fishing Regulation 5 AAC 27.535. The 1996/97 Kodiak Harvest Strategy combines the Kamishak food/bait guideline harvest level (GHL) with the Kodiak GHL for the West Afognak, Uganik, and Uyak food/bait management districts. Most KMA herring stocks have dramatically increased over the past six years. Intermixing of the Kodiak and Kamishak herring stocks occurs during the winter months on the west side of the Kodiak Island group. Actual inseason management is guided by the following regulation:

5 AAC 27.535. HARVEST STRATEGIES.

- a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the department shall manage the herring food/bait fishery so that the food/bait harvest does not exceed 10 percent of the actual Kodiak herring sac roe harvest in the previous season.
- b) The department shall manage the herring food/bait fishery in waters set out in the Afognak District (5 AAC 27.505 (a)(1)-(5)), in the Uganik District (5 AAC 27.505(b)) and Uyak District (5 AAC 27.505(c)) so that the total harvest does not exceed the sum of (1) the allowable harvest of the Kamishak spawning stock that overwinter in the Shelikof Strait as determined under the Kamishak Bay District herring management plan (5 AAC 27.465) and (2) GHL set for the food/bait fishery in these waters as provided in (c), (Figure 2).
- c) The GHL for the herring food/bait fishery in waters set out in the Afognak District (5 AAC 27.505 (a)(1)-(5)), Uganik District (5 AAC 27.505(b)) and Uyak District (5 AAC 27.505(c))

shall not exceed 10 percent of the herring sac roe harvest of the previous season in these waters.

d) When the Kamishak Bay herring spawning biomass is below 8,000 short tons the department shall close the food/bait fishery in Shelikof Strait north of the latitude of Miner's Point, (Figure 3).

MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

To accommodate this harvest strategy, thirteen (13) food/bait management districts are utilized to include geographical groupings of sac roe stocks and adjacent offshore areas.

Each food/bait management district consists of several sac roe herring fishery management units, Figures (4-12). Each food/bait management district GHL is based upon 10% of the total sac roe herring harvest which occurred within the food/bait management district boundaries.

GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS

The 1996-1997 food/bait G.H.L. for the KMA will be affected by the following management considerations:

Kodiak Spawning Stocks

For Kodiak spawning stocks, as described in 5 AAC 27.535(a) Harvest Strategies, the department shall limit the food/bait harvest to 10% of the previous spring's sac roe harvest on a stock by stock basis, (Table 1). Harvest levels on Kodiak stocks in the adjacent offshore areas will reflect the combined food/bait G.H.L. for the sac roe stocks included within that management district. A maximum of 333 tons properly distributed throughout the KMA will be the food/bait guideline harvest on Kodiak spawning stocks.

The herring stocks within Food/Bait Management Districts F/B 2 North Afognak, F/B 3 South Afognak, F/B 10 Inner Marmot (Figure 5), and the F/B 5 Uyak (Figure 6) have declined. The sac roe fishery has been closed the last two seasons and the food/bait fishery was closed last year for these districts. To prevent further exploitation on these depressed stocks, these districts will be closed to commercial food/bait herring fishing for the entire 1996-97 season.

Kamishak Spawning Stocks

Determination of the 1997 Kamishak spawning biomass is still under review. At this time the Area Biologists estimate that the allocation could well justify the preliminary 200 ton allocation to the KMA food/bait herring fishery. This allocation could potentially change, pending a final harvest projection for the Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery.

As discussed in 5 AAC 27.535(b) Harvest Strategies, the GHL's for the Kodiak food/bait management districts F/B 1 and F/B 4 will be combined with the Kamishak Bay herring allocation.

The Kamishak Bay GHL of 200 tons plus the Kodiak stock combined GHL's for food/bait units F/B 1 and F/B 4 of 190 tons, gives a combined GHL of 390 tons. When the 390 ton GHL is reached or approached, the following management districts will be closed collectively to further food/bait herring fishing, F/B 1, F/B 4, F/B 11, and F/B 12, Figure 2. Herring harvested in food and bait management units F/B 11 and F/B 12 are attributed to the Kamishak Bay GHL.

GHL Summary

Shelikof Strait Fishery	200 Tons <u>190 Tons</u> 390 Tons	Kamishak Allocation Kodiak Stocks (F/B 1 and 4) Total
Remainder of the Kodiak Area	143 Tons	T-4-1
Total for the entire Kodiak Area	533 Tons	Total

REGULATIONS

Season Dates

From August 1, 1996 through February 28, 1997.

Fishing Periods

Open to continuous fishing from 12:01 A.M. 8/1/96 to 12:00 P.M. 2/28/97 unless superseded by emergency order closures. However, if effort and harvest levels escalate, there may be a need to establish set fishing periods to maintain an orderly fishery. Changes in fishing periods will be made by an emergency order.

Closed Waters

The North Afognak F/B 2, South Afognak F/B 3, Uyak F/B 5, and the Inner Marmot F/B 10 food/bait herring districts are closed to commercial food/bait herring fishing for the entire 1996/97 season.

See CLOSED WATERS section in the 1995-96 Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations (page 57), 5 AAC 27.530.

Consult 1996-98 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations, (5 AAC 18.350), for a listing of closed waters for the Kodiak food/bait herring fishery for the period August 1 through October 31, 1996, pages 58-62.

Interim Use and Registration Permits Required

An <u>Interim Use Permit</u> is required before a registration permit will be issued. Interim use permits are issued from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission in Juneau for the following gear types:

- H01K Purse Seine
- H34K Gillnet
- H07K Trawl

Registration Permit - Kodiak ADF&G Office

- All fishers and processor/buyers are required to register with the Kodiak ADF&G office prior to fishing.

Registration Permit will be used for:

- Monitoring fleet size by gear type.
- ^c Clarifying catch reporting procedures, closed water areas, and inseason emergency order announcement procedures.

Legal Gear Restrictions

Following are the gear restrictions by type for purse seine, gillnet, and trawl gear for the Kodiak Food/Bait Fishery.

Gear Code

- 01 Purse Seines
 - Maximum length: 150 fathoms
 - Maximum depth: 1,625 meshes. For Area K there are <u>no</u> web size restrictions.
 - Lead length unrestricted.

34 - Gillnets

- Maximum length: 150 fathoms; mesh size: 2-1/8" to 2-1/2".
- No depth restrictions.

07 - Trawl

No restrictions

Consult the 1995-96 Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations for a complete listing of all regulations.

EMERGENCY ORDER (E.O.) ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is important for KMA food/bait fishers to be aware of emergency order management district closures. This can be accomplished by 1) personal contact with the Kodiak ADF&G management staff, via office visits or by calling 486-1830, 2) contacting Kodiak ADF&G management staff on SSB radio frequency 3.230 MHz, 3) contacting local herring processors, 4) calling the Kodiak ADF&G recorded message phone at 486-4559, 5) listening for an emergency order update which will be broadcasted at 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. after the marine weather on SSB radio frequency 4.125 MHz or 6) by picking up the most recent emergency order from the holder mounted outside the Kodiak ADF&G office.

The ADF&G vessel R/V K-Hi-C may be present on the fishing grounds and will initiate management unit closures once GHL's are achieved. The R/V K-Hi-C can be reached on VHF channel 6 or SSB radio frequency 3.230 MHz.. The crew of the R/V K-Hi-C will also contact fishers in person to inform them of closures and obtain harvest data.

REPORTS REQUIRED BY FISHERMEN

<u>All</u> herring landings during the food/bait season must be <u>verbally</u> reported to ADF&G before the product is totally unloaded at the dock.

The following phone numbers will reach Fish and Game personnel 24 hours per day:

- ADF&G Office: Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. - 486-1807 or 486-1830.
- After Office Hours: 4:30 P.M. to 8:00 A.M.
 - 486-6007 (Dave Prokopowich)
 - 486-3031 (Dennis Gretsch)
 - 486-6475 (Kevin Brennan)

All fish tickets must be completed and sent to the Kodiak Fish and Game office within a week of the landing.

Send to: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division

ATTN: Dave Prokopowich

211 Mission Road Kodiak, Alaska 99615

FISHER COOPERATION

Department personnel will conduct confidential skipper interviews to obtain biomass estimates, average school size, and herring distribution data. Additionally, fisher and processor cooperation will be appreciated when Department personnel request herring samples. These samples will be used to determine age composition, and length and weight characteristics of the commercial harvest.

Table 1. Kodiak Management Area 1996/97 herring food/bait harvest strategy. A listing of guideline harvest levels by food/bait management districts^a. (G.H.L. harvest numbers represent short tons).

Food/Bait	Sac Roe	Management Units		Sac Roe	1996/97 Food/Ba
Mgmt. Dist.	No.	Name	G.H.L.	Harvest	G.H.L.
F/B 1	WA10	Raspberry	300	4	0
	WA20	Malina	200	118	12
West Afognak	WA31	Paramanof	500	695	70
Unit	WA32	Foul Bay	150	124	12
	WA40	Blue Fox/Devil's Inlet	30	3	0
	WA50	Offshore Afognak	Exploration	0	Exploration
UNIT TOTAL:			1,180	944	94
F/B 2 ^b	NA10	Shuyak	20	0	Closed
	NA20	Delphin Bay	Closed	0	Closed
North Afognak	NA30	Perenosa Bay	Closed	0	Closed
Unit	NA40	Seal Bay	Closed	0	Closed
	NA50	Tonki Bay	Closed	0	Closed
		•			
UNIT TOTAL:			20	0	Closed
F/B 3 ^b	SA10	Inhut Dov	C11	0	Clared
r/b 3		Izhut Bay	Closed	0	Closed
0 4 40 1	SA20	Kitoi Bay	Closed	0	Closed
South Afognak	SA30	McDonalds Lagoon	Closed	0	Closed
Unit	SA40	Danger Bay	Closed	0	Closed
	SA50	Litnik	Closed	0	Closed
	SA60	Duck Bay	Closed	0	Closed
UNIT TOTAL:			Closed	0	Closed
F/F 4	****				_
F/B 4	UG10	Kupreanof	10	0	0
	UG20	Viekoda Bay	50	71	7
Uganik	UG21	Terror Bay	250	117	12
Unit	UG30	Village Islands	250	333	33
	UG31	W. Uganik Passage	40	36	4
	UG32	N.E. Arm Uganik	30	10	1
	UG33	E. Arm Uganik	125	113	11
	UG34	S. Arm Uganik	180	283	28
	UG40	Offshore Uganik	Exploration	0	Exploration
UNIT TOTAL:			935	963	96
-					
F/B 5	UY10	Offshore Uyak	Closed	0	Closed
	UY20	Harvester Island	Closed	0	Closed
Uyak ^b	UY30	Inner Uyak	Closed	0	Closed
Unit	UY32	Browns Lagoon	Closed	0	Closed
	UY31	Larsen Bay	Closed	0	Closed
	UY40	Zachar Bay	Closed	0	Closed
	UY50	Spiridon	Closed	0	Closed
UNIT TOTAL:			Closed	0	Closed

Table 1. (page 2 of 3)

Food/Bait	Sac Roe Management Units		1996 Sac Roe		1996/97 Food/Bai
Mgmt. Dist.	No.	Name	G.H.L.	Harvest	G.H.L.
F/B 6					
Sturgeon/	SH10	Sturgeon/Halibut	Exploration		Exploration
Halibut Unit			•		
F/B 7	AL10	Outer Alitak	Exploration	0	Exploration
	AL20	Inner Alitak	Exploration	3	0
Alitak	AL21	Inner Deadman Bay	40	13	1
Unit	AL22	Outer Deadman Bay	95	24	2
	AL30	Sulua Bay	240	288	29
	AL31	Portage Bay	75	76	8
	AL40	Lower Olga/Moser Bay	15	2	0
	AL41	N. Upper Olga Bay	10	0	0
	AL50	Upper Olga Bay	40	10	1
	AL60	Geese/Twoheaded	15	33	3
	71200	Good I Wonoadd			
UNIT TOTALS:			530	449	44
UNIT TOTALS.			330	117	
E/D 0	E 4 10	Vainamala	20	0	0
F/B 8	EA10	Kaiugnak	20	0	
	EA20	S.W. Sitkalidak	20	2	0
	EA21	Three Saints Bay	40	47	5
Eastside	EA22	Newman Bay	20	12	1
Unit	EA23	W. Sitkalidak Strait	275	72	7
•	EA24	Barling Bay	50	54	5
	EA30	E. Sitkilidak	300	229	23
	EA31	Tanginak Anchorage	15	1	0
	EA40	Outer Sitkalidak	Exploration	0	Exploration
	EA41	Boulder Bay	Exploration	21	2
	EA42	Shearwater Bay	90	53	5
	EA43	Outer Kiliuda Bay	90	104	10
	EA44	Inner Kiliuda Bay	90	80	8
	EA50	Outer Ugak Bay	60	54	5
	EA51	Inner Ugak Bay	90	94	9
	EA52	Pasagshak	30	0	0
		-			
UNIT TOTAL:			1,190	823	80
E/D 0	NIC 10	Wantana Davi	50	50	.
F/B 9	NE10	Womens Bay	50	50	5
NT. diam.	NE20	Kalsin Bay	10	4	0
Northeast	NE30	Middle Bay	10	0	0
Unit	NE40	Inshore Chiniak	10	0	0
	NE50	Offshore Chiniak	Exploration	0	Exploration
UNIT TOTAL:			80	54	5
E/D 10	13.410	Manashka/Mill Day	Eunia-stia-	0	Classed
F/B 10		Monashka/Mill Bay	Exploration	0	Closed
Inner Marmot ^b		Anton Larsen Bay	Closed	0	Closed
Unit	IM30	Sharatin Bay	Closed	0	Closed

-Continued-

Table 1. (page 3 of 3)

Food/Bait	Sac Roe Management Units		1996 Sac Roe		1996/97 Food/Bai
Mgmt. Dist.	No.	Name	G.H.L.	Harvest	G.H.L.
	IM40 K	izhuyak Bay	Closed	0	Closed
		pruce Island	10	0	Closed
UNIT TOTAL:	<u>.</u>		10	0	Closed
F/B 11	NM10	Hallo Bay	Exploration	0	Exploration
North	NM20	Inner Kukak	50	12	1
Mainland	NM30	Outer Kukak	Exploration	0	Exploration
Unit	NM40	Inner/Outer Missak	Exploration	0	Exploration
UNIT TOTAL:			50	12	11
F/B 12	MM10	Inner Katmai	50	63	6
	MM20	Outer Katmai	Exploration	0	Exploration
Mid-Mainland	MM30	Alinchak	40	20	2
Unit	MM40	Puale Bay	Exploration	0	Exploration
	MM50	Portage Bay	Exploration	0	Exploration
	MM60	Outer Portage Bay	Exploration	0	Exploration
UNIT TOTAL:			90	83	8
F/B 13	SM10	Wide Bay	95	55	5
South	SM20	Lower Shelikof	Exploration	0	Exploration
Mainland Unit					1
UNIT TOTAL:			95	55	5
GRAND TOTALS:			4,180	3,383	333

The Kodiak Area total G.H.L. for food/bait fishery, as indicated in the 1995-96 Herring Regulations, is managed so that the food/bait harvest does not exceed 10% of the actual herring sac roe harvest in the previous season. This table reflects the available food/bait harvest for each sac roe stock or food/bait district, whichever applies. (See Harvest Strategy.) G-H-L and harvest figures are rounded to the nearest ton.

These management districts will be closed for the entire 1996/97 Food/Bait Herring season.

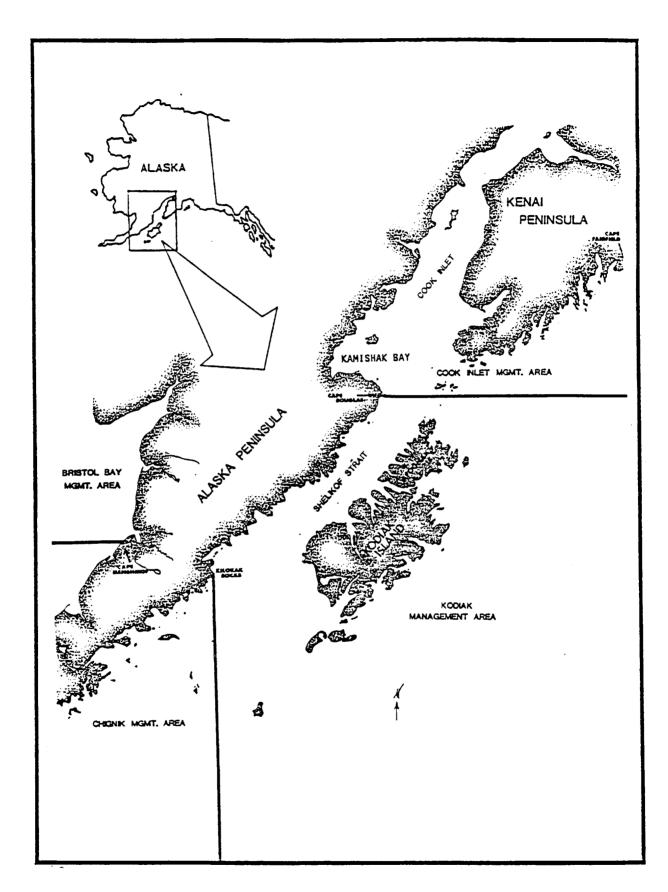


Figure 1. Map of southcentral Alaska showing the Kodiak and Cook Inlet herring management areas, along with the location of Kamishak Bay and Shelikof Strait.

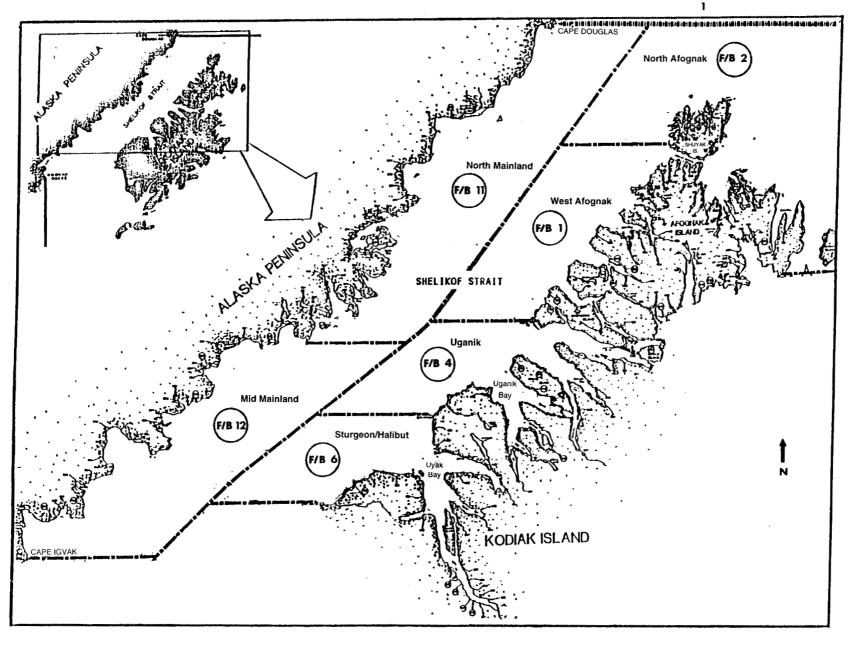
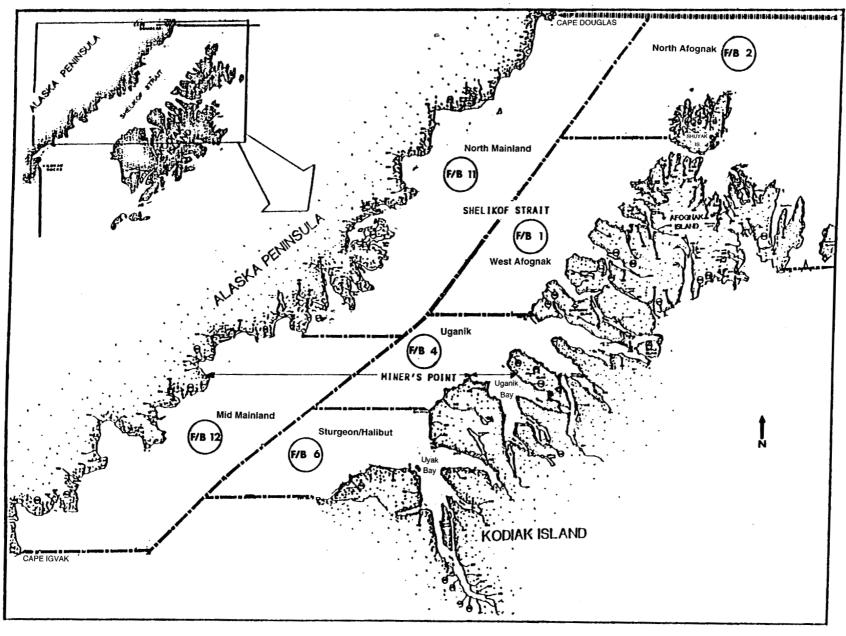


Figure 2. Kodiak food and bait herring management districts (FB1, FB2, FB4, FB5, FB11, and FB12) which are affected by the harvest of Kamishak Bay herring.



Pigure 3. Kodiak food and bait management area north of the latitude of Miner's Point which would be closed if the Kamishak Bay herring biomass is below 8,000 tons.

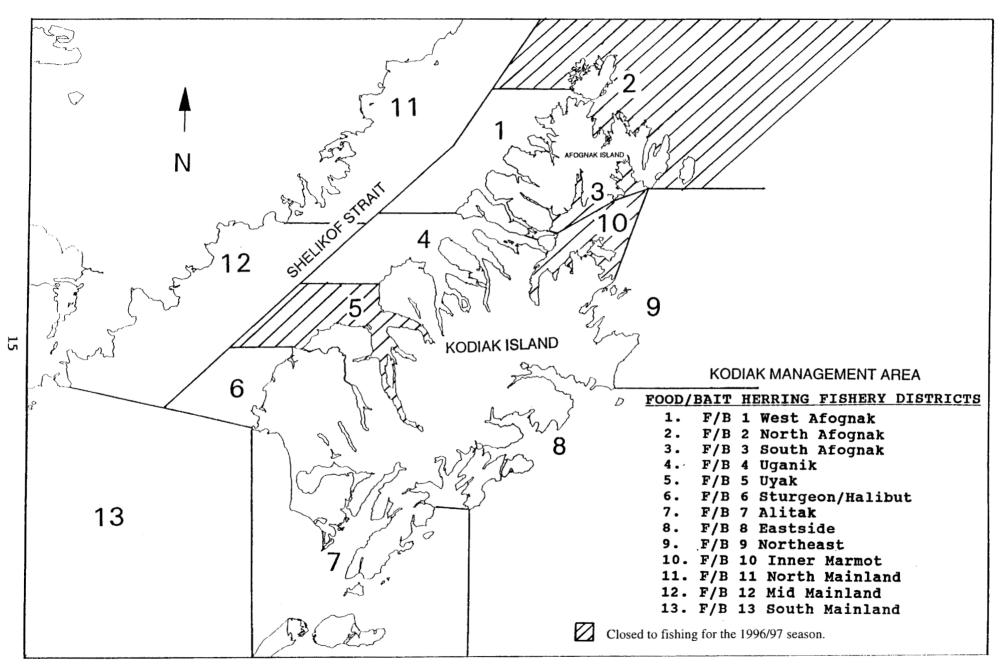


Figure 4. Kodiak Area food/bait herring fishery districts and key to enlarged maps. (1-8).

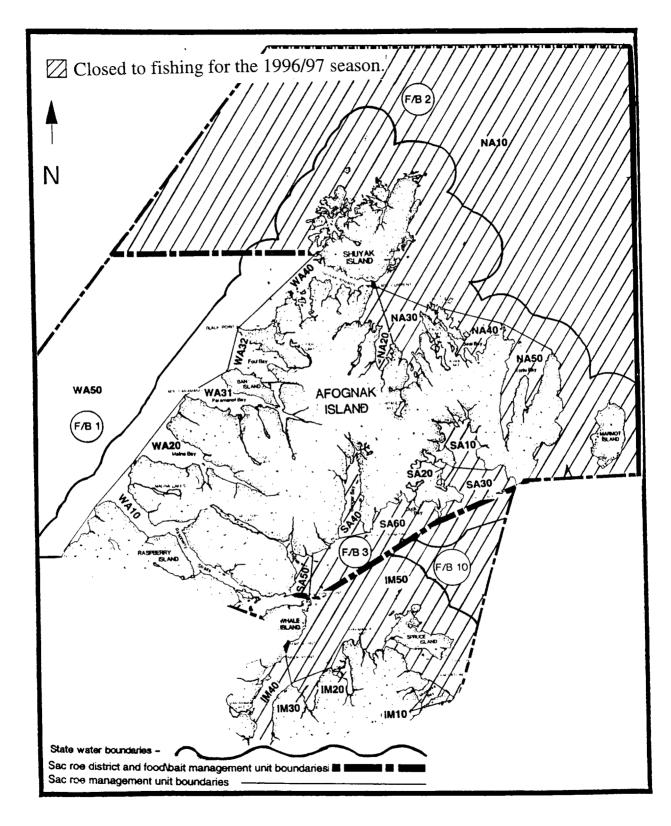


Figure 5. Map #1, food and bait districts 1, 2, 3, and 10, Kodiak Management Area.

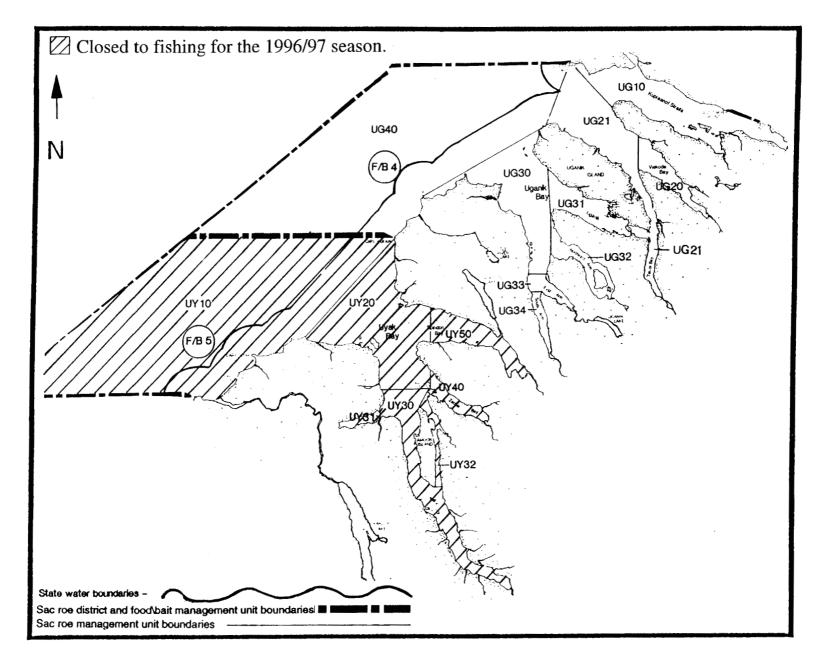


Figure 6. Map #2, food and bait herring districts 4 and 5, Kodiak Management Area.

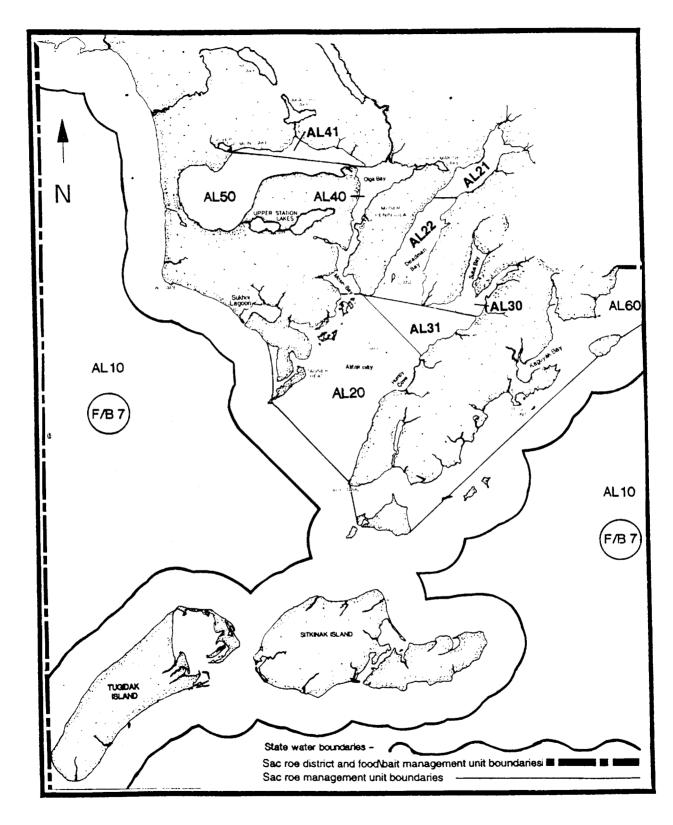


Figure 7. Map \$3, food and bait herring district 7, Kodiak Management Area.

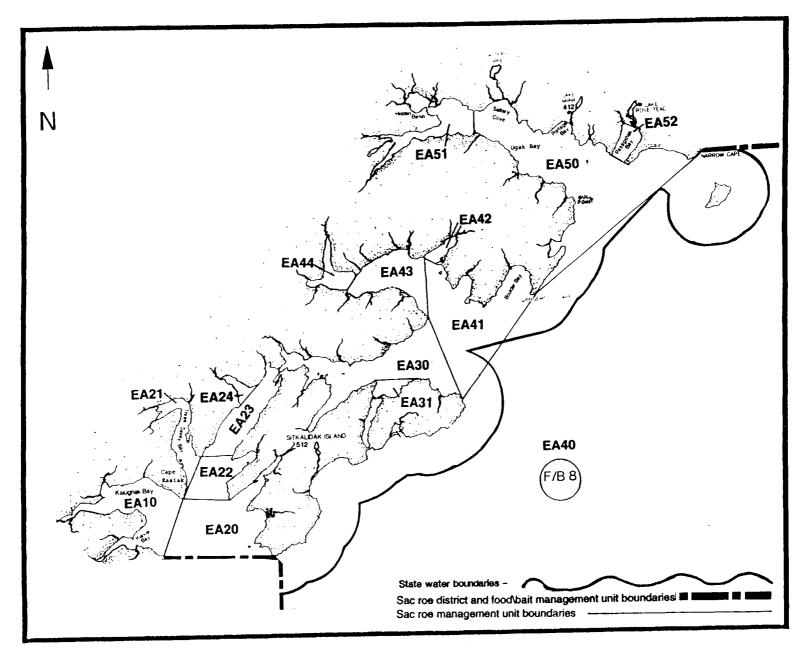


Figure 8. Map #4, food and bait herring district 8, Kodiak Management Area.

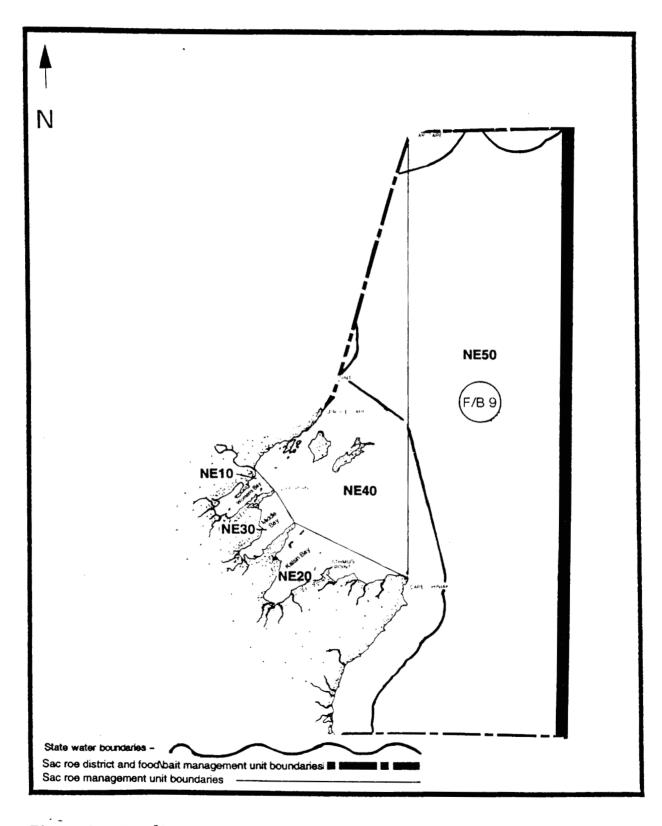


Figure 9. Map #5, food and bait herring district 9, Kodiak Management Area.

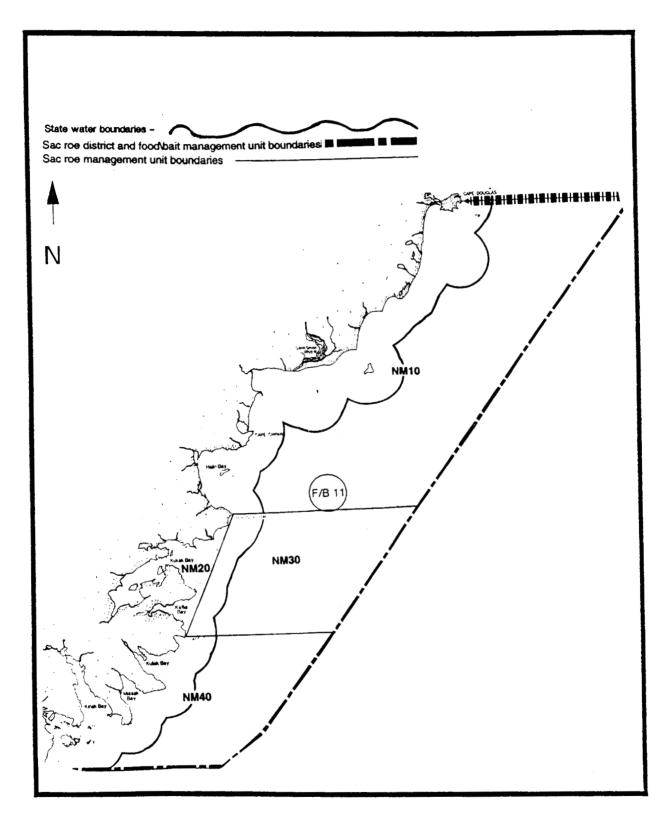


Figure 10. Map #6, food and bait herring district 11, Kodiak Management Area.

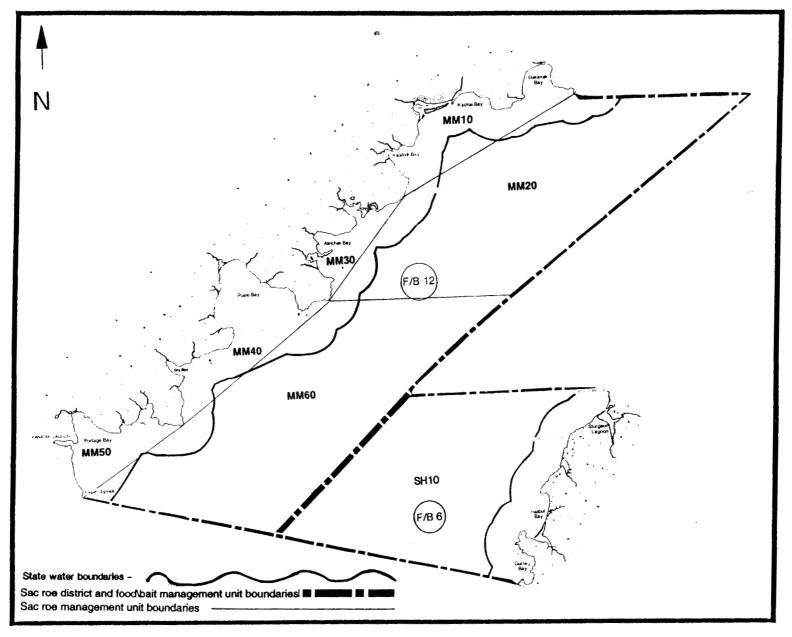


Figure 11. Map #7, food and bait herring districts 6 and 12, Kodiak Management Area.

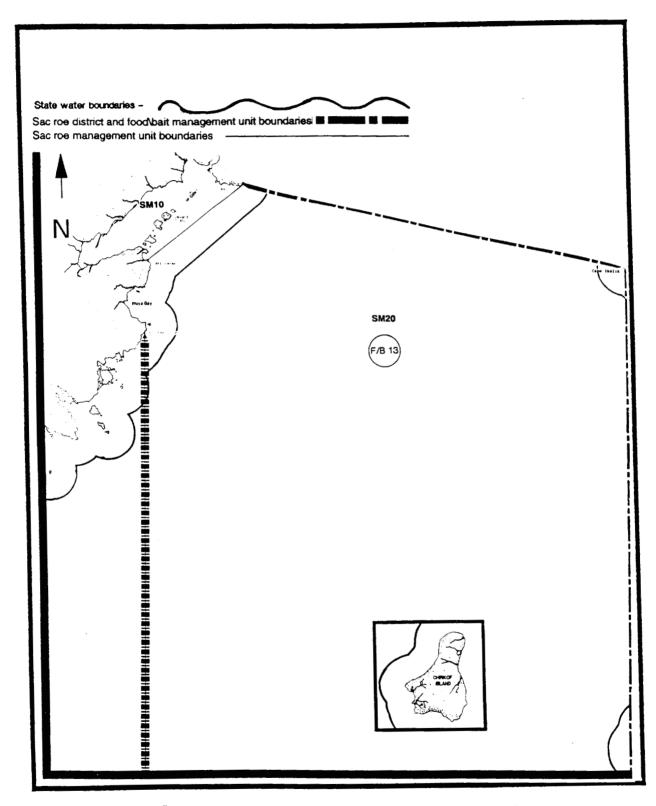


Figure 12. Map #8, food and bait herring district 13, Kodiak Management Area.

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